

# **MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION**

July 13, 2017 - 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm  
Teleconference Meeting  
Number: 1-866-685-1580 Code: 5152425994  
MEETING MINUTES

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## **MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Thomas Bouska  
Pete Brantner  
Thomas Broeker  
Jody Eaton  
Marsha Edgington  
Kathryn Johnson  
Sharon Lambert

Geoff Lauer  
Brett McLain  
John Parmeter  
Rebecca Peterson  
Rebecca Schmitz  
Jennifer Sheehan

## **MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Senator Mark Costello  
Representative David Heaton  
Betty King

Senator Liz Mathis  
Representative Scott Ourth  
Marilyn Seemann

## **OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Theresa Armstrong	MHDS, Bureau Chief, Community Services and Planning
Hannah Beach	Legislative Services Agency
Andy Eastwood	Wellspring, Executive Director
Jay Hansen	Prairie Ridge Integrated Behavioral Healthcare, Executive Director
Cindy Hess	Hillcrest Family Services
Julie Maas	MHDS, Community Services and Planning/CDD
Flora Schmidt	Iowa Behavioral Health Association
Rick Shults	DHS, MHDS Division Administrator
Lorrie Young	Prairie Ridge Integrated Behavioral Healthcare, Clinical Director

## **Welcome and Call to Order**

John Parmeter called the meeting to order at 12:32 and Julie Maas took roll. Quorum was established with 13 members present on the phone. No conflicts of interest were identified.

## **Designating Prairie Ridge Integrated Behavioral Healthcare as a CMHC – Theresa Armstrong**

Theresa thanked the Commission for agreeing to hold a special meeting to designate Prairie Ridge Integrated Behavioral Healthcare (Prairie Ridge) as a CMHC for Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Hancock, Mitchell, Winnebago and Worth counties. Theresa said this designation is due to the CMHC in that area, Wellspring, closing effective July 31,

2017. Theresa said this is the first time DHS has designated a CMHC and prior to 2012 DHS accredited and named CMHCs but the county designated the CMHC.

Theresa reviewed the designation requirements in Iowa Code Chapter 230A for Community Mental Health Centers. Theresa said DHS is required to designate one CMHC per county and the agency must be able to serve individuals in a mental health crisis, individuals with mental illness, adults with serious mental illness, children with a serious emotional disorder, and individuals with a co-occurring disorder. The agency must show that they are able to serve all ages with minimal denial and provide support to individuals in and outside of their catchment area. The agency must meet accreditation requirements in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 24 and be able to provide outpatient services including evaluation and assessment, group and individual therapy, and medication management; 24 hour emergency services; day programs which can include day treatment, partial hospitalization, or psychosocial rehabilitation; admission screening for voluntary MHI admissions; community support services; consultation; and education services. Theresa said that prior to designating a CMHC DHS is required to talk to other CMHCs and service providers in the area and then bring the designation to the MHDS Commission for their approval.

Theresa said that DHS received a written request to designate Prairie Ridge as a CMHC on June 22, 2017. DHS began conversations with Wellsource the end of May 2017 regarding the closure of Wellsource and their plans to transfer clients to Prairie Ridge and other service providers in the area. Theresa said DHS confirmed with Prairie Ridge that they were able to meet the Code's CMHC requirements and Prairie Ridge worked with DHS to meet the accreditation requirements of Chapter 24. Theresa said that DHS spoke with CMHCs in the neighboring counties, service providers in the catchment area and the CEO of the MHDS Region where Prairie Ridge is located. Theresa said that the three CMHCs, Berryhill Center, Pathways Behavioral Services, Northeast Iowa Behavioral Health, supported and agreed with the designation. Theresa said that the service providers she spoke with were supportive of the designation but had some concerns about the transition and if Prairie Ridge is able to serve children. Theresa said that DHS had a conversation with Prairie Ridge about serving children and they are CARF accredited to serve both children and adults and are currently providing outreach services to children. Theresa said that Prairie Ridge also partner closely with Youth Shelter and Services who also serves children in their area. Theresa said that DHS spoke with Bob Lincoln who is the CEO of the MHDS Region Prairie Ridge is located in and he was also supportive of the designation.

Jody Eaton asked about the designation process since DHS has previously told providers that DHS was not designating any additional CMHCs. Theresa stated that Jody was correct. Theresa stated that the current code went into effect in 2012 and prior to that DHS accredited and named CMHCs and counties designated CMHC. Some counties requested waivers for accredited mental health service providers to be used as the CMHC and these providers are grandfathered in with the current code. Over 10 years ago DHS had decided not to name any CMHC and did not change this with the current code requirements. In the past year there have been multiple changes

to CMHC and DHS has started to look at the CMHC designations and requirements. DHS would not designate more than one CMHC per catchment area, unless there were extraneous circumstances as allowed by code.

Sharon Lambert asked why Wellsource was closing. Theresa asked Andy Eastwood the Executive Director of Wellsource if he would like to address this question. Andy said that Wellsource's closure is a result of losing various funding streams and becoming unsustainable in a system that is changing and moving towards agencies partnering with larger companies. Andy said that a few years ago they lost several clinical staff due to heavy recruitment and clinical staff bring in much needed income for a smaller agency. Sharon Lambert asked if that area was losing providers and Andy answered that although some providers have made the decision to move out of the area most are moving to Prairie Ridge or other local mental health providers.

Sharon Lambert asked if Wellsource received Mental Health Block Grant dollars and if they did if those dollars will transfer to Prairie Ridge. Theresa explained that Iowa receives federal money in the form of a Mental Health Block Grant and 70% of that money goes to CMHCs. Theresa answered that Wellsource did receive Block Grant funds and that DHS will be working with Prairie Ridge on how they will be spending Block Grant money.

Kathy Johnson thanked DHS for their thorough job on meeting the requirements and helping to make it a smooth transition from Wellsource to Prairie Ridge. Kathy expressed concerns with emergency rules being passed that will fiscally impact CMHCs as well as the funding for some required CMHC services ending. Kathy stated that she would like to hear from Prairie Ridge about their transition plan to meet the CMHC requirements.

Lorrie Young from Prairie Ridge summarized the history of providing both mental health and substance use disorder services and how becoming a CMHC fits with their plan to provide more integrated care. Lorrie summarized the services that Prairie Ridge is currently providing as well as the expansion of their medication prescribing services. Kathy Johnson asked Lorrie to explain how they will meet the requirement to provide psychosocial community support services. Lorrie stated that they do have plans to expand their community support services but for the first few months their priority will be building their integrated health home program and spreading awareness about their new program.

John Parmeter asked Andy if there are any lessons to be learned from the situation. Andy answered that he has learned many lessons but don't underestimate oppressions on an agency and he is pleased they found an agency to partner with who will continue their work.

Sharon Lambert asked if DHS sees other CMHCs running into the same problems and if they anticipate more CMHCs closing. Theresa answered that CMHCs are looking at

what they should be looking like in a new system and there may be changes in the form of CMHCs partnering with hospitals or other service providers.

**Public Comment**

Jay Hansen from Prairie Ridge thanked everyone who worked on the transition to make it as smooth as possible and believes their expansion will have a positive impact on their community.

**Vote**

Geoff Lauer made a motion to vote on the designation of Prairie Ridge as a CMHC. Tom Bouska seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to designate Prairie Ridge Integrated Behavioral Healthcare as a CMHC.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Julie Maas.